

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 013717

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: TECH, IS

SUBJECT: TRIAL PROPOSALS TO BIRDF

REF: TEL AVIV 423

1. AS EXPRESSED IN SCHELL/BLACKMAN TELECON OF JANUARY 17, WE BELIEVE THERE MAY BE SOME UNFORTUNATE PRECEDENTS IN ACTIONS REPORTED IN REFTEL. IN FIRST PLACE, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT NOT TO SOLICIT PROPOSALS TO THE BIRDF UNTIL GUIDELINES HAVE BEEN FINALIZED AND PUBLISHED SO THAT ALL INTERESTED PARTIES HAVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO COMPETE FOR AN AWARD. INTENT OF EXERCISE OF FORTHCOMING FEBRUARY 16-17 JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING IS TO TEST GUIDELINES ONLY AND IN NO WAY TO PLACE BIRDF UNDER OBLIGATION TO FUND TRIAL
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PROPOSALS LATER. WE THOUGHT LAVIE HAD ACCEPTED THIS PRINCIPLE AND HAD AGREED TO REQUEST TRIAL PROPOSALS IN NAME OF MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND NOT REPEAT NOT IN NAME OF BIRDF.

2. IN SECOND PLACE, WE HOPE REQUEST OF LAVIE TO DOV EDEN RE TRIAL PROPOSALS DOES NOT ESTABLISH PATTERN OF SOME SORT

OF ISRAELI BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY OVER BIRDF EMPLOYEES IN
ABSENCE OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: (1) SCIATT MILLS REQUESTED TO
CONTACT LAVIE AND BLACKMAN AND EXPLAIN IMPORTANCE USG
ATTACHES TO PROPER REPRESENTATION OF TRIAL PROPOSALS TO
FIRMS PREPARING THEM, I.E., THAT (A) REQUEST ORIGINATES
FROM MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, NOT BIRDF, AND (B) TO BE
CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING, PROPOSALS WILL HAVE TO BE RESUB-
MITTED LATER IN FORM MEETING REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED BY
FINAL GUIDELINES. (2) AT HIS DISCRETION SCIATT MIGHT ALSO
MENTION TO BLACKMAN OUR CONCERN OVER POSSIBILITY OF TOO
CLOSE A LINK BETWEEN LAVIE AND EDEN. (3) SCIATT REQUESTED
TO GIVE HIS CONFIDENTIAL ASSESSMENT OF DEGREE OF CONCUR-
RENCE OF BOARD MEMBERS MANDELBAUM AND SIVAN WITH LEAD OF
LAVIE IN BIRDF MATTERS. WE BELIEVE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT IT
IS IMPORTANT TO RECEIVE THEIR APPROVAL OF GUIDELINES AS
WELL AS THAT OF LAVIE, WHO APPEARS TO BE ACTING IN MANY
CASES UNILATERALLY. CHRISTOPHER

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